

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims which follows will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) ~~The external segment of claim 1,~~ An external segment for a telescoping handle comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive a locking pin for coupling an internal segment with the external segment to form the telescoping handle; and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin and comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole through the member;

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an external surface of the member.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

12. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the internal surface comprises an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole and the external surface comprises a raised lip

surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the external surface form a shoulder.

13. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

14. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole through the member;

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an external surface of the member.

15. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the entire reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the member in a direction radially within the internal surface of the member.

16. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

17. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is positioned to not impede the movement of the inner segment.

18. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11 wherein the member is constructed from aluminum.

19. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed from stainless steel.
20. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.
21. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the extended position.
22. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the collapsed position.
23. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and the locking pin comprises a second material that is stronger than the first material.
24. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 23, wherein the second material is stainless steel.
25. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.
26. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the member further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism is inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

27. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

- an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

- an external segment, the external segment comprising:

- a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

- a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

- a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

28. (Previously presented) A transporting device, comprising:

- a telescoping handle, the telescoping handle comprising:

- an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

- an external segment, the external segment comprising:

- a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

- a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

- a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

29. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the internal surface comprises an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole, and the external surface comprises a raised

lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the external surface form a shoulder.

30. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

31. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole through the member;

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the member; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an external surface of the member.

32. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the entire reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the member in a direction radially within the internal surface of the member.

33. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

34. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is positioned to not impede the movement of the inner segment.

35. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the member is constructed from aluminum.

36. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed from stainless steel.
37. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.
38. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the internal segment is in the extended position.
39. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the internal mechanism is in the collapsed position.
40. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and wherein the locking pin comprises second material that is stronger than the first material.
41. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 40, wherein the second material is stainless steel.
42. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the telescoping handle further comprises an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.
43. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the member further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism is

inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

44. (Previously presented) The transporting device of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a member with an external surface and an internal surface;

a hole through the member extending from the internal surface to the external surface, the hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, secured to the member, and not projecting beyond the internal surface, wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

45. (Previously presented) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment and an external segment, the external segment telescopically receiving the inner segment so that the inner segment is telescopically extendable from the external segment along a longitudinal axis of the external segment;

the inner segment having a locking pin outwardly extending therefrom;

the external segment having a side wall having a hole therethrough, the locking pin being extendable through the hole;

an exterior surface of the side wall having an annular raised lip extending along a periphery of the hole;

an interior surface of the side wall having an annular recess along the periphery of the hole, the recess having a generally L-shaped cross-sectional contour taken along the plane extending through the longitudinal axis of the external segment;

an annular washer positioned against the raised lip and having an outer perimeter with a radius substantially equal to the outer radius of the raised lip;

an eyelet having a middle portion extending through the hole and the washer, and an outer portion outwardly extending from the hole with a curved outer edge curling back towards and in contact with the washer;

the eyelet further having an inner portion extending into the recess of the interior surface of the side wall with an exposed face of the inner portion of the eyelet lying substantially flush with the inner face of the side wall; and

the raised portion, washer and eyelet affording additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to help reduce deformation of the hole by the locking pin when extended through the hole.

46. (Previously presented) The telescoping handle of claim 45, wherein the raised portion, washer and eyelet provide additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to afford an increase by at least 16.5% to a maximum tensile load that can be exerted on the telescoping handle before deformation of the hole.